

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2476  
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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 PRETORIA 5326

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDEC,PINT, RH  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH AVOIDS DRASTIC MEASURES IN SPEECH

REF: PRETORIA 5272

1. PM SMITH GAVE A NATIONWIDE ADDRESS ON SEPTEMBER 10 WHICH INTRODUCED AN UNSPECIFIED " MODIFIED MARTIAL LAW" BUT STOPPED SHORT OF NATIONAL MOBILIZATION. SMITH ALSO ANNOUNCED STEPS TO "LIQUIDATE" THE INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS " ASSOCIATED WITH TERRORISTS" AND LAUNCHED A SCATHING ATTACK ON NYERERE AS "A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK" TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. SMITH CRITICIZED NKOMO FOR HIS ROLE IN THE AIR RHODESIA KILLINGS BUT DEFENDED HIS RECENT MEETING WITH HIM AND DID NOT RULE OUT FURTHER MEETINGS. SMITH ALSO USED THE OCCASION FOR CONDEMNING THE US AND THE UK, SAYING THEY HAVE "THE MAJOR SHARE OF THE  
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BLAME" FOR THE ESCALATING WAR.

2. SUBSEQUENT PRESS ACCOUNTS REPORT THAT THE RHODESIAN POLICE HAVE ARRESTED AT LEAST NINETEEN ZAPU MEMBERS. CHINAMANO IS QUOTED AS SAYING " I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT TONIGHT THEY WILL COLLECT US ALL UNDER THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS." HE REPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS AWAITING THE " POLICE CALL".

3. WE DO NOT YET HAVE A FULL TEXT OF SMITH'S SPEECH. THE CITIZEN OF SEPTEMBER 11 APPEARS TO CARRY THE FULLEST ACCOUNT OF IT TO DATE. COMPARING THIS ACCOUNT WITH SABC EXERPTS INDICATES THAT IT IS NOT CHRONOLOGICALLY IN ORDER BUT DOES SEEM TO BE RELATIVELY COMPLETE. WE HOPE TO HAVE A FULL TEXT SHORTLY. SEPTELS FOLLOW WITH COMMENT AND REACTION.

4. THE CITIZEN TEXT FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: " THE RHODESIAN PREMIER SAID: " WE FACE THE GRAVEST CRISIS OF OUR LIVES, AND ALTHOUGH THE RECORD SHOWS THE ALMOST SUPERHUMAN EFFORT OF RHODESIANS OVER THE PAST DECADE, WE ARE GOING TO REQUIRE AN EVEN GREATER EFFORT FROM NOW ON.". MR. SMITH'S 28-MINUTE ADDRESS TO THE NATION, RECORDED YESTERDAY MORNING AMID TOP SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, FOLLOWED A STATEMENT HE MADE IN THE RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WAS TO EMBARK ON A NEW COURSE WITH MORE ACTION AND LESS WORDS. BUT MR. SMITH GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT THE NEW COURSE WILL BE LAST NIGHT, AND WHITE RHODESIANS, RIDING THE CREST OF THE WAVE OF UNPRECEDENTED ANGER, FOUND LITTLE TO REDUCE THEIR DESIRE FOR REVENGE.MR. SMITH ADDED, HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT WHITE RHODESIANS SHOULD NOW FEEL THEY HAD GIVEN ENOUGH. "THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE VISCOUNT AIRLINER, THE MURDER OF THE SURVIVORS AND THE SUBSEQUENT GLOATING CLAIMS OF NKOMO WERE THE LAST STRAW," HE SAID. " I UNDERSTAND THEIR REACTION AND FEELINGS. INDEED, I SHARE THEM. " BUT IN MY POSITION- AND THIS APPLIES TO

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ALL OF US IN GOVERNMENT- I HAVE TO KEEP A COOL HEAD AND TO ASSESS CAREFULLY THE LIKELY EFFECT OF ANY ACTION WE MAY TAKE."

" I CANNOT AFFORD THE LUXURY OF GIVING WAY TO MY EMOTIONS, STRONG THOUGH THE TEMPTATION MAY BE."

BUT IN A BID TO COUNTERACT THE ANGER AND REVULSION OF THE WHITE POPULATION, MR. SMITH ISSUED A STRONG WARNING TO ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE.

" I MUST WARN THE NEIGHBORING STATES TO THE NORTH AND EAST THAT WE CANNOT TOLERATE A SITUATION IN WHICH THESE MURDEROUS TERRORISTS CAN OPERATE FROM WITHIN THEIR BORDERS WITH IMPUNITY. " IF THEY PERMIT THIS, THEN THEY MUST BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY DEFENSIVE STRIKES WE MAY UNDERTAKE AGAINST TERRORIST BASES IN THEIR COUNTRIES.

" AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, WE SHALL TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO AVOID THEIR CIVILIAN POPULATION."

MR. SMITH HIT OUT AT" EMOTION WHIPPED UP IN THE HEAT OF TRAGEDY" AND REJECTED THE CLAMOUR OF THOSE " WHO SAY THE POSITION IS SO SERIOUS THAT WE MUST REPORT TO SOME DRAMATIC DESPERATE ACTION, A KIND OF DO OR DIE ATTITUDE.

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" ON THE OTHER SIDE, THERE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM OUR SALVATION LIES IN CAPITULATION TO THE FORCES OF EVIL. " BOTH SMACK OF DESPERATION AND BOTH MUST BE DISCARDED." MR. SMITH DID NOT ELABORATE ON HIS PLANS TO " LIQUIDATE THE INTERNAL WORKINGS OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH TERRORISM". INPRACTICE, THIS MIGHT MEAN THE BANNING OF JOSHUA NKOMO'S ZIMBABWE AFRICAN PEOPLES UNION, AND ROBERT MUGABE'S PEOPLES MOVEMENT AND THE DETENTION OF OFFICIALS. MR. SMITH DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER TALKS WITH THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS OR WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. REFERRING TO MARTIAL LAW LAST NIGHT, MR. SMITH SAID THE ACTION THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO STRENGTHEN THE WAR EFFORT COULD BE TERMED AS A "MODIFICATION OF MARTIAL LAW". HE SAID IT WOULD ENABLE RHODESIA TO STREAMLINE PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR EFFORT, AND ALSO LEAVE INTACT THOSE CIVIL AUTHORITIES WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO CONTINUE TO PLAY THEIR PART. " IT WILL BE INTRODUCED TO PARTICULAR AREAS AS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WHEN REQUIRED, AND NOT ON A NATION-WIDE BASIS," MR. SMITH SAID.  
" IT WILL LEAD TO TOUGHER, AND STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST OUR ENEMIES.

"ATH THE SAMETIME, WE WILL CONTINUE TO GUARD AGAINST INJURY AND HARDSHIP TO THOSE INNOCENT CIVILIANS WHO INEVITABLY FIND THEMSELVES IN THE MIDDLE WHEREVER TERRORISTS OPERATE." BUT MR. SMITH DID NOT SAY WHEN PARTIAL MARTIAL LAW WOULD BE INTRODUCED OR WHERE.

MR. SMITH SAID HE SUPPORT THE CALL BY THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, DR . DAVID OWEN, FOR DE-ESCALATION OF THE WAR AND THE AVOIDANCE OF CIVIL TARGETS. HE AND HIS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COLLEAGUES HAD MADE SIMILAR APPEALS WITHOUT AVAIL IN THE PAST.

"WE WOULD CERTAINLY MATCH ANY DE-ESCALATION FROM THE OTHER SIDE," HE SAID. " THE MAIN DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, IS TAT WE CONCENTRATE ENTIRELY ON ELIMINATING TERRORISTS, WHEREAS THE LATTER AVOID MILITARY TARGETS WHEREVER POSSIBLE AND CONCENTRATE THEIR VENOM ON UNARMED AND DEFENSELESS CIVILIANS." MR. SMITH LASHED DR. OWEN FOR GIVING ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND SAID DR. OWEN HAD THE "SINISTER MOTIVATION" OF BEING DETERMINED TO IMPOSE MONORITY BLACK LEADERS AND THEIR TERRORIST ARMIES ON RHODESIA.

"THE CONTINUATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST THE MULTI-RACIAL TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IS, OF COURSE, AN INTERGRAL PART OF THIS STRATEGY. " WHAT MORE BLATANT EXAMPLE OF CYNICAL EXPEDIENCE COULD THERE BE THAN THE POLICY OF DENYING US, THROUGH SANCTIONS, THE RIGHT TO PURCHASE THE WEAPONS NEEDED TO DEFEND OUR CITIZENS AGAINST MURDEROUS ATTACKS SUCH AS THE ONE ON THE VISCOUNT AIRLINER AND THE UNFORTUNATE SURVIVORS?" HE ASKED.

MR. SMITH SAID THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE EFFORTS OF THE BRITISH CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION AND OFF MANY SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN IN THE UNITED STATES TO PERSUADE THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO LIFT SANCTIONS. " REGRETTABLY, HOWEVER, THE MINORITY GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN HAS DECIDED TO CLING TO POWER AS LONG AS POSSIBLE AND WE CANNOT EXPECT ANY EARLY RELIEF. UNCLASSIFIED

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"WE WHO ARE DOING OUR BEST TO BRING IN A DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED MAJORITY RULE GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE BLACK AND WHITE RHODESIANS WHO ARE THE TARGETS OF COMMUNIST-ARMED TERRORISTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE BRANDED AS A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE BECAUSE WE REFUSE TO SURRENDER TO THE FORCES OF EVIL."

MR. SMITH SAID THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN THE TARGET OF MUCH

CRITICISM, SOME OF WHICH HAD BEEN JUSTIFIED. MR. SMITH SAID DIFFICULTIES AND DIFFERENCES COULD BE EXPECTED IN A COALITION COMPRISING FOUR PARTIES. " BUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US BOTH IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND IN THE MINSTERIAL COUNCIL IS DETERMINED TO SUCCEED AND TO OVERCOME OUR PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH WE REACHED OUR AGREEMENT ON MARCH 3.

" WE ALL KNOW VERY WELL THAT THE STARK ALTERNATIVE IS," HE SAID. MR. SMITH SAID HE WAS DEDICATED TO REACHING A " REAL AND DURABLE SOLUTION" AND HAD ACCEPTED PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA'S INVITATION TO GO TO LUSAKA TO MEET NKOMO BECAUSE " I AM A BELIEVER IN

DIRECT CONTACT AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PREPARED TO TALK TO ANYONE IF THERE WAS A PROSPECT THAT IT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE"...  
HE HAD WISHED TO ASCERTAIN WHAT NKOMO'S ATTITUDE WAS, TRAVELLING SECRETLY BUT WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COLLEAGUES AND THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS.  
" I WENT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE MATABELE PEOPLE WERE CALLING ON NKOMO TO RETURN TO RHODESIA AND TAKE HIS PLACE AS THEIR LEADER. I WENT, HAVING BEEN ASSURED THAT HE WAS AT HEART A MAN OF PEACE."

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATW

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUO

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IN A SCATHING ATTACK ON PRESIDENT NYERERE, MR. SMITH SAID:

"REGRETTABLY, HOWEVER, EVENTS HAVE PROVED THAT NKOMO IS A PRISONER OF THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS AND IN PARTICULAR OF NYERERE, SUPPORTED BY MACHEL, AND THEIR HENCHMAN, MUGABE." NOT EVEN THE SUPPORT OF NIGERIA SAVED KAUNDA AND NKOMO FROM THE WRATH OF NYERERE FOR HAVING THE TEMERITY TO TALK TO ME. " NYERERE, AND HIS IMPLACABLE HATRED OF THE WHITE MAN AND HIS RECORD OF DISMAL FAILURE IN HIS OWN COUNTRY SINCE INDEPENDENCE, REMAINS THE EVIL ON THE RHODESIAN SCENE AND A MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

" IT WAS PRIMARILY HIS REJECTION OF THE KISSINGER AGREEMENT WHICH CAUSED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO GO BACK ON IT. " HE IT WAS WHO, A YEAR AGO, PERSUADED PRESIDENT CARTER TO INSIST THAT DR. OWEN SHOULD

LAY DOWN THE INFAMOUS CONDITION THAT THE SO-CALLED LIBERATION FORCES SHOULD FORM THE BASIS OF OUR FUTURE ARMY. " YET HE IS NOT EVEN A GENUINE FRONTLINE PRESIDENT AND HE HAS MORE TO LOSE THAN TO GAIN FROM A SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD ENABLE ZAMBIA TO REOPEN ITS SOUTHERN UNCLASSIFIED

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ROUTES." MR. SMITH SAID THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PAST WEEK HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN GOVERNMENT WERE UNDER "TREMENDOUS PRESSURE" TO SPEAK TO NKOMO-" TO BRING HIM IN TO PLAY HIS PART IN THE AFFAIRS OF OUR COUNTRY."

MR. SMITH TOLD REPORTERS AFTER MAKING THE RECORDING THAT HE THOUGH THE CHANCES OF ANOTHER MEETING WITH NKOMO WERE SLIM "AT THIS MOMENT". BUT HE DID NOT DISCOUNT THE PROSPECT OF FURTHER TALKS WITH NKOMO.

REFERRING TO THE PLANS TO INTENSIFY THE WAR EFFORT, MR. SMITH SAID MARTIAL LAW HAD BEEN REJECTED IN THE PAST BECAUSE IT WOULD CREATE MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT SOLVED. THIS WAS THE OVERWHELMING OPINION OF PROFESSIONAL MILITARY STRATEGISTS AS WELL AS POLITICIANS.

" AND SO WITH TYPICAL RHODESIAN INGENUITY, WE HAVE ADAPTED TO OUR OWN PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES AND HAVE NOW PRODUCED A PLAN TO MAXIMIZE THE ADVANTAGES AND MINIMIZE THE DISADVANTAGES. ONE COULD TERM IT A MODIFICATION OF MARTIAL LAW WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO STREAMLINE PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE PROSECUTION OF OUR WAR EFFORT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME LEAVING INTACT THOSE CIVIL AUTHORITIES WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO CONTINUE TO PLAY THEIR PART. " IT WILL BE INTRODUCED TO PARTICULAR AREAS AND NOT ON A NATIONWIDE BASIS. IT WILL LEAD TO TOUGHER, STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST OUR ENEMIES- THIS IS THE PRECISE INTENTION. " AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL CONTINUE TO GUARD AGAINST INJURY AND HARDSHIP TO THOSE INNOCENT CIVILIANS WHO INEVITABLY FIND THEMSELVES IN THE MIDDLE WHENEVER TERRORISTS OPERATE." " THE QUESTION OF GENERAL MOBILIZATION HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN CONSIDERATION ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND, LIKE THE INTRODUCTION OF MARTIAL LAW, WE HAVE FOUND THAT THERE ARE PROS AND CONS," MR. SMITH SAID.

" THIS WILL BE CONTINUED TO BE ASSESSED BUT I DO WANT TO SAY THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF RESORTING TO THIS MEASURE UNLESS WE CAN BE CONVINCED THAT IT WILL BRING BENEFIT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST." MR. SMITH GAVE A STRONG INDICATION THAT THE INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TERRORIST ALLIANCE WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BE BANNED. " THE NEXT STEP IS TO LIQUIDATE THE INTERNAL WORKINGS OF THOSE ORGANIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH TERRORISM," HE SAID. " YOU MAY WELL ASK, WHY WAS IT NOT DONE BEFORE? THERE WERE GOOD REASONS, NOT ONLY AS A RESULT OF OUR OWN ASSESSMENTS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE ADVICE URGED UPON US BY SOME OF OUR FRIENDS IN OTHER COUNTRIES."

THIS WAS THE ONLY INDICATION MR. SMITH GAVE THAT THERE MAY BE ASPECTS OF THE GOVERNMENTS'S " NEW COURSE" THAT WOULD NOT PLEASE RHODESIA'S FRIENDS. REFERRING TO THE AIR DISASTER, MR. SMITH SAID THE SHOOTING DOWN OF THE AIRLINER AND THE SUBSEQUENT COLD-BLOODED MASSACRE BY NKOMO'S TERRORISTS OF TEN OF THE 18 SURVIVORS HAD INTRODUCED A NEW DIMENSION INTO THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. " WE ARE A SMALL AND CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY AND A TRAGEDY OF THIS NATURE STRIKES IN US A DEEP AND RESPONSIVE CHORD," HE SAID.

MR. SMITH SAID THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD NOW ADMIT THAT THEY WERE GUILTY OF A "GROTESQUE MISJUDGEMENT" OF THE RHODESIAN CASE. " IT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAJOR SHARE OF THE BLAME FOR THE ESCALATING TERRORISM IN RHODESIA, AND THE MASSACRES SUCH AS THAT AT THE ELIM MISSION AND THIS MOST RECENT DISASTER NEAR KAROI," HE SAID.

" IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE, DECENCY, RIGHTEOUSNESS, HOW CAN THE LEADERS OF THE FREE WORLD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT A GANG OF MARXIST TERRORISTS WHO HAVE AN UNENDING RECORD OF PERPETRATING THE MOST SADISTIC AND HORRIFYING ACTS OF BESTIALITY- WOMEN AND CHILDREN HERDED INTO HUTS AND BURNED ALIVE, BABIES BAYONETTED TO DEATH, PEOPLE FORCED TO KILL THEIR RELATIVES AND EAT PART OF THEIR BODIES.

"NOW, THIS GHASTLY MASSACRE OF INNOCENT, DEFENSELESS PEOPLE, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN. AND THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, DR. OWEN, STILL SAYS THAT HE HAS TO BE CONVINCED THAT THIS IS THE WORK OF PATRIOTIC FRONT TERRORISTS." END QUOTE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COUNTERINSURGENCY, SPEECHES, MEETINGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f499e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014